

THE  
RELATION OF  
the Right Honourable the Lord  
*De-La-Warre*, Lord Gouvernour  
and *Captaine* Generall of the  
*Colonie*, planted in  
VIRGINEA.

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LONDON  
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*William Welbie*, dwelling in Pauls Church-  
yard at the Signe of the Swan.

1611.

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A  
SHORT RE-  
lation made by the

Lord *De-La-Warre*, to the Lords  
and others of the Counsell of *Virginea*,  
*touching his unexpected retorne home, and af-*  
*terwards deliuered to the generall Assembly*  
*of the said Company, at a Court holden*  
*the twenty five of Iune,*  
1611.

Published by authority of  
*the said Counsell.*

*My Lords, &c.*

**B**Eing now by accident returned  
from my Charge at *Virginea*, con-  
trary either to my owne desire, or  
other

other mens expectations, who spare not to censure me, in point of duty, and to discourse and question the reason, though they apprehend not the true cause of my returne, I am forced, (out of a willingnesse to satisfie euery man) to deliuer vnto your Lordships, and the rest of this Assembly, briefly, (but truely) in what state I haue liued, euer since my arriual to the *Colonic*; what hath beene the iust occasion of my sudden departure thence; and in what termes I haue left the same: The rather because I perceiue, that since my coming into *England*, such a coldnesse and irresolution is bred, in many of the *Aduenturers*, that some of them seeke to withdraw those painēts, which they haue subscribed towards the Charge of the *Plantation*, and by which that *Action* must bee supported and maintained; making this my returne,  
the

the colour of their needlesse backwardnes  
and vniust protraction. Which, that you  
may the better vnderstand, I must informe  
your Lordships, that presently after my ar-  
riual in *James Towne*, I was welcommed by  
a hote and violent Ague, which held mee a  
time, till by the aduice of my Physition,  
Doct<sup>r</sup> *Laurence Bohun*, (by blood letting)  
I was recouered, as in my first Letters by  
*Sir Thomas Gates* I haue informed you.  
That disease had not long left me, til (with-  
in three weekes after I had gotten a little  
strength) I began to be distempered with  
other greuous sicknesses, which succes-  
siuely & seuerally assailed me: for besides  
a relapse into the former disease, which  
with much more violence held me more  
then a moneth, and brought me to great  
weakenesse, the Flux surprised me, and kept  
me

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me many daies; then the Crampe assaulted my weak body, with strong paines; & afterwards the Gout (with which I had heere-tofore beene sometime troubled) afflicted mee in such sort, that making my body through weakenesse vnable to stirre, or to vse any maner of exercise, drew vpon me the disease called the Scuruy; which though in others it be a sicknesse of slothfulnesse, yet was in me an effect of weaknesse, which neuer left me, till I was vpon the point to leaue the world.

These seuerall maladies and calamities, I am the more desirous to particularise vnto your Lordships (although they were too notorious to the whole *Colonie*) lest any man should misdeeme that vnder the general name and cōmon excuse of sicknes, I went about to cloke either sloth, or feare,

or



by the Lord De la VVarre.

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or anie other base apprehension , vnworthy the high and Honourable charge, which you had entrusted to my Fidelity.

In these extremities I resolved to consult my friends, vvho (finding Nature spent in mee, and my body almost consumed, my paines likewise daily encreasing) gaue me aduise to preferre a hopefull recouery, before an assured ruine, which must necessarily haue ensued, had I liued, but twenty dayes longer, in *Virginia*: wanting at that instant, both food and *Physicke*, fit to remedy such extraordinary diseases, and restore that strength so desperately decayed.

VVhereupon, after a long consultation held, I resolved by generall consent and perswasion, to shippe my selfe for

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*Menis,*

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*Meuis*, an Island in the VWest Indies, famous for vvholesome Bathes, there to try what help the Heauenly Prouidence would afford mee, by the benefit of the hot Bath : But GOD, who guideth all things, according to his good will and pleasure, so provided, that after wee had sailed an hundred Leagues, wee met with Southerly windes which forced mee to change my purpose, (my body being altogether vnable to endure the tediousnesse of a long voyage) and so sterne my course for the VWestern Islands, which I no sooner recouered, then I found help for my health, and my sickenesse asswaged, by meanes of fresh diet, and especially of Orenge and Lemonds, an vndoubted remedy and medicine for that disease, which lastly, and so long, had afflicted



afflicted mee : which ease as soone as I found, I resolved ( although my body remained still feeble and weake, to returne backe to my charge in *Virginia* againe, but I was aduised not to hazard my selfe before I had perfectly recovered my strength, which by counsell I was perswaded to seeke in the naturall Ayre of my Countrey, and so I came for England. In which Accident, I doubt not but men of reason, and of iudgement will imagine, there would more danger and preiudice haue hapned by my death there, then I hope can doe by my returne

In the next place, I am to giue account in what estate I left the *Collony* for gouernment in my absence. It may please your Lordships therefore to vnderstand,

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that vpon my departure thence, I made choise of Captaine *George Pearcie*, (a Gentleman of honour and resolution, and of no small experience in that place, to remaine Deputie Gouvernour, vntill the comming of the Marshall Sir *Thomas Dale*, whose Commiſſion was likewise to be determined, vpon the arriuall of Sir *Thomas Gates*, according to the intent and order of your Lordships, and the Councill here.

The number of men I left there, were vpward of two hundred, the most in health, and prouided of at least tenne moneths victuals, in their store-house, (which is daily issued vnto them) besides other helps in the Countrey, lately found out by Captaine *Argoll* by trading vvith pettie Kings in those parts, who

who for a small returne of a piece of Iron, Copper, &c. haue consented to trucke great quantities of Corne, and willingly imbrace the intercourse of Traffique, shewing vnto our people certaine signes of amitie and affection.

And for the better strengthening and securing of the *Collony*, in the time of my weaknesse there, I tooke order for the building of three feuerall Forts, two of which are seated neere *Poynt Comfort*, to which adioyneth a large Circuit of ground, open, and fit for Corne: the third Fort is at the *Falles*, vpon an Island inuironed also with Corne ground. These are not all manned, for I wanted the commoditie of Boates, hauing but two, and one Barge, in all the Countrey, which hath beene cause that our

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fishings hath beene (in some sort) hindered, for want of those provisions, which easily will be remedied when wee can gaine sufficient men to be employed about those businell's, which in *Virginia* I found not : but since meeting with *Sir Thomas Gates* at the *Cowes neere Portsmouth* (to whom I gaue a perticular accompt of all my proceedings, and of the present estate of the *Collony* as I left it) I vnderstood those wants are supplied in his *Fleete*.

The Countrey is wonderfull fertile and very rich, and makes good whatsoever heretofore hath beene reported of it, the Cattell already there, are much increased, and thriue exceedingly with the pasture of that Countrey : The Kine all this last *VVinter*, though the ground

was

was couered most vvith Snow, and the  
season sharpe, liued without other fee-  
ding then the grasse they found, vvith  
which they prospered well, and many  
of them readieto fall with Calue: Milke  
being a great nourishment and refresh-  
ing to our people, seruing also (in occa-  
sion) as well for *Physicke* as for food, so  
that it is no way to be doubted, but when  
it shall please God that Sir *Thomas Dale*,  
and Sir *Thomas Gates*, shall arriue in *Vir-  
ginia* with their extraordinary supply of  
one hundred Kine, and two hundred  
Swine, besides store of all manner of o-  
ther prouisions for the sustenance and  
maintenance of the *Collony*, there vvill  
appeare that successe in the Action as  
shall giue no man cause of distrust that  
hath already aduentured, but encourage  
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euery good minde to further so worthy a worke , as will redound both to the Glory of GOD , to the Credit of our Nation , and to the Comfort of all those that haue beene Instruments in the furthering of it.

The last discouery, during my continuall sicknesse , was by Captaine *Argoll*, who hath found a trade with *Patamack* (a King as great as *Powhatan*, vvho still remaines our enemie , though not able to doe vs hurt.) This is in a goodly Riuer called *Patomack*, vpon the borders whereof there are growne the goodliest Trees for Masts, that may be found elsewhere in the VVorld : Hempe better then English , growing wilde in abundance : Mines of Antimonie and Leade, There is also found without our Bay.



to the Northward an excellent fishing Bancke for Codde, and Ling, as good as can be eaten, and of a kinde that will keepe a whole yeare, in Shippes hould, with little care; a tryall whereof I now haue brought ouer vvith mee. Other Islands there are vpon our Coasts, that doe promise rich merchandise, and vvill further exceedingly the establishing of the *Plantation*, by supply of many helpes, and vvill speedily afford a returne of many vvorthie Commodities.

I haue left much ground in part manured to receiue Corne, hauing caused it the last VVinter to be sowed for rootes, vvith vvich our people vv ere greatly releued.

There are many Vines planted in

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diuers places , and doe prosper vvell , there is no vvant of any thing, if the action can be vpheld with constancy and resolution.

Lastly, concerning my selfe, and my course , though the VWorld may imagine that this Countrey and Climate, will (by that vvwhich I haue suffered beyond any other of that *Plantation*) ill agree, vvith the state of my body , yet I am so farre from shrinking or giuing ouer this honourable enterprise, as that I am vvilling and ready to lay all I am worth vpon the aduenture of the Action, rather then so Honourable a worke should faile, and to returne vvith all the conuenient expedition I may, beseeching your Lordships , and the rest , not onely to excuse my former wants , happened by

by the Almighty hand : but to second my resolutions vvith your friendly in-deauours : that both the State may receiue Honour, your selues Profit, and I future Comfort, by being imployed (though but as a weake Instrument) in so great an Action.

And thus hauing plainely, truely, and briefly, deliuered the cause of my returne, vvith the state of our affayres, as wee now stand, I hope euery vvorthy and indifferent hearer, will by comparing my present resolution of returne, with the necessitie of my comming home, rest satisfied with this true and short Declaration.

*Ff N 7 S.*